(b) the names of those public sector (Government) Institutes where no Muslim persons are working on higher posts; and

(c) the details of steps Government have taken to compensate the same?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Data on employment in Government service, including in Public Sector Undertakings, is not maintained on the basis of religion. However, instructions have been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training to submit information regarding representation of 'minorities' in Government employment, including public sector undertakings.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criteria for ascertaining the minority people

†1420. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any criterion to ascertain the number of minority people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) the details of the facilities being provided to the minorities;

(d) whether some of the castes in Punjab who speak Punjabi language are also included in the minority list; and

(e) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The Central Government have notified five religious communities, *viz.*, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities in accordance with Section 2(C) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

(c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities focuses on enhancing opportunities for education, an equitable share in economic activities and employment and improving the condition of living of minorities and provides for earmarking of 15 per cent of targets and funds, wherever possible, for minorities in the schemes included in the programme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) Sikhs, irrespective of caste, are included in the minority list notified under Section 2(c) of the NCM Act, 1992.

Economic and educational upliftment of minorities

†1421. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities including reservation provided by Government for economic and educational upliftment of minorities;

(b) whether there is any provision for keeping 'creamy layer' out of reservation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same would be implemented; and

(d) the details of reasons for awarding scholarships to minorities on the basis of their caste certificates while the status of minority is judged on the basis of religion?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) In June, 2006 the Prime Minister's New 15 Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has been announced. The details of the schemes are available at website 'www.minorityaffairs.gov.in'. As of now, there is no reservation for minorities in Government employment except for those included in the list of OBCs. The concept of 'creamy layer' applies to them as in the scheme for reservation for OBCs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Maulana Azad Educational Foundation, functioning under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, has a scheme for awarding scholarship to meritorious girl students, who have completed tenth standard, belonging to communities declared as minorities under the National Commission Minorities Act, 1992.

Sachar Committee Report

1422. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether observations in the report on 'Social, Economic and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.